

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:MAUSTRIAN/MW

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

AID - MR. PARKER

S/S: RGAMBLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223874

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, AF, US

SUBJECT: U. S. ASSISTANCE FOR AFGHANISTAN

REF: KABUL 6045

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT DAOUD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HE RETURNS FROM ISLAMABAD AND CONVEY TO HIM THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: I VERY MUCH ENJOYED MY STAY IN AFGHANISTAN AND APPRECIATE THE HOSPITALITY SHOWN ME AND MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY BY YOUR GOVERNMENT. OUR STAY IN KABUL WAS EXTREMELY PLEASANT, EVEN IF UNAVOIDABLY BRIEF.

ON RETURNING TO WASHINGTON, I HAVE HAD MY STAFF LOOK INTO THE MATTERS RAISED BY YOUR MINISTERS CONCERNING OUR AID PROGRAM IN AFGHANISTAN. I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT WE
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WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST YOU ON MOST OF THE PROJECTS DISCUSSED.

IN OUR DISCUSSIONS IN KABUL I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON THE U.S.-FINANCED HELMAND VALLEY PROJECT. I KNOW HOW MUCH IMPORTANCE YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT ATTACH TO THIS PROJECT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE WORK HAS NOT PROCEEDED AS FAST AS WE BOTH HAD HOPED, BUT MY

ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FINANCING OF THIS PROJECT AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME.

I WAS GRATIFIED ALSO TO HEAR THAT OUR PROJECTS CONCERNING SCHOOLS, BASIC HEALTH SERVICES, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ARE GOING FORWARD SATISFACTORILY. WE ARE PREPARED TO EXPAND THESE PROJECTS SIGNIFICANTLY, FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PHASE I.

YOUR MINISTER REQUESTED U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EXPAND THE KANDAHAR ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM. WE ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER A LOAN OF UP TO DOLS 2 MILLION FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, AND COMMODITIES TO EXPAND AND MANAGE THE KANDAHAR POWER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, BASED ON AN EXPECTED FAVORABLE FINDING OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY NOW UNDERWAY, AND ASSUMING THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE THE NECESSARY AFGHAN PERSONNEL TO BE TRAINED TO MANAGE THIS EXPANDED SYSTEM. WE EXPECT THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION TO RESOLVE THE FISCHBACH-OMAN OVERRUN CLAIM, RESULTING FROM THE KAJAKAI POWER HOUSE PROJECT, BEFORE WE SUBMIT THIS ADDITIONAL PROJECT FOR CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW.

WE HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO ASSIST KABUL UNIVERSITY OVER THE YEARS. DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS IN KABUL, MINISTER KHURRAM ASKED FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO EXPAND THE ENGINEERING FACULTY. WE AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO ASSIST YOU IN THIS EXPANSION. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED THE AID MISSION OFFICIALS TO REVIEW AFGHAN NEEDS FOR ENGINEERS AND PARA ENGINEERS AND TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR OFFICIALS WAYS IN WHICH THE FACULTY AND FACILITIES FOR TRAINING CAN BE EXPANDED.

THE MINISTER ALSO RAISED THE NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN RE-
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SOLVING MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADEQUATE TRAINING FACILITIES. WE ARE PREPARED TO BE HELPFUL ON THIS ISSUE. OUR AID MISSION WILL DISCUSS WITH YOUR OFFICIALS SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH THIS CAN BE DONE. IN ADDITION, I SUGGEST THAT YOU EXPLORE UTILIZING THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE CORPS TO ASSIST YOUR PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES.

I UNDERSTAND THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN CONSTRUCTING A DORMITORY FOR WOMEN AT KABUL UNIVERSITY. THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO ASSIST WITH PROJECTS WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUR COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT.

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WE APPRECIATE YOUR GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE FOR EARLY HELP IN SOLVING PROBLEMS IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN ABOUT LENGTHY SURVEYS. I HAVE ASKED AID TO WORK WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR WITH A VIEW TOWARD DEVELOPING A STRATEGY FOR JOINT COOPERATION AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, TO IDENTIFY PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR POSSIBLE U.S. FINANCING. THE HELP WHICH YOU REQUESTED FOR THE AGRICULTURE FACULTY WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THIS CONTEXT. YOUR REQUEST FOR FERTILIZER ASSISTANCE WILL ALSO BE ADDRESSED IN CONNECTION WITH THIS STUDY ALTHOUGH IN THE SHORT TERM WE BELIEVE YOUR GOVERNMENT SHOULD USE ITS OWN RESOURCES FOR FERTILIZER IMPORTS.

MINISTER ASEFI ASKED ABOUT U.S. SATELLITE IMAGERY FOR USE IN MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION. WE WILL BE PLEASED TO WORK WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT TO SEE IF APPROPRIATE IMAGERY IS AVAILABLE AND TO DISCUSS TRAINING YOUR TECHNICAL PEOPLE IN INTERPRETATION TECHNOLOGY.

THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE U.S. SUPPORT FOR TRANSMISSION LINES TO KABUL AND ADDITIONAL GENERATORS WAS DISCUSSED. UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN FINANCE NEITHER PROJECT UNDER THE TERMS OF EXISTING AID LEGISLATION. I SUGGEST YOU DISCUSS THESE PROJECTS WITH THE IBRD AND THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK ONCE YOUR PREPARATORY WORK IS COMPLETED.

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YOUR MINISTERS ALSO RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. HELP IN CONSTRUCTING A STEEL MILL AND A LARGE MEDICAL FACILITY. I AM AFRAID THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO BE OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE IN EITHER OF THESE PROJECTS. THE FIRST IS PRECLUDED BY OUR LEGISLATION; ON THE LATTER, WE PREFER TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BASIC HEALTH SERVICES PROJECT RECENTLY INITIATED. YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS THE STEEL MILL WITH THE IBRD OR THE ADB. ASSUMING THE PROPOSAL IS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE, YOU MIGHT ALSO WANT TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF INVOLVING PRIVATE AMERICAN BUSINESS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT ON THE FOREGOING PROJECTS. AS I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, UNDER OUR OWN PROCEDURES THE ABILITY OF MY GOVERNMENT TO COMMIT ASSISTANCE TO THESE PROJECTS

WILL DEPEND UPON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROPRIATE OVERALL
BUDGET LEVELS FOR MY GOVERNMENT DURING THE YEARS CONCERNED
AND, OF COURSE, UPON CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. IN CLOSING,
I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS AGAIN MY SATISFACTION WITH OUR
DISCUSSIONS IN KABUL. PLEASE CONVEY MY BEST WISHES TO
THE MEMBERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WITH WHOM I MET, AND,
IN PARTICULAR, TO YOUR BROTHER, MR. NAIM. END QUOTE.

3. FYI - DETAILED FOLLOW UP INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE SENT BY
SEPTTEL. KISSINGER

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